



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

November 5, 2004

**RE: UNITED STATES v. RICHARD FITZGERALD**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Richard C. Fitzgerald, age 46, of Machias, New York, pled guilty before Hon. Richard J. Arcara, United States District Judge to a felony Information, charging him with one count of bank fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, carrying a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gretchen L. Wylegala stated that the defendant, who was an assistant vice president and branch manager of the Salamanca branch of Cattaraugus County Bank, had engaged in a scheme to skim money from loans he made to CCB customers. To keep the scheme going, he frequently made larger loans to pay off earlier loans. Over \$2,000,000 worth of these loans are now in default. Fitzgerald personally obtained well over \$100,000 from this scheme, which continued from early 2000 until August, 2002.



The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jamestown Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn.

Sentencing is scheduled for February 18, 2005 at 12:30 p.m. in front of Hon. Richard J. Arcara, United States District Court Judge.

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